

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A further message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

MOTHER OF ALL TERRORISTS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Palestinian Authority has a new face for its movement for statehood. It's Latifa Hmeid. Palestinians praise her as the "mother of seven prisoners" and the mother of a person called "Martyr."

These sons of hers are in prison for crimes against humanity. Rather than mother of the year, it turns out she is really mother of all terrorists. One of her sons, the Martyr, was a member of the military wing of Hamas, who planned and conducted the ambush and murder of an Israeli intelligence officer. Her other sons are serving a total of—get this—18 life sentences in prison. They have committed crimes, including attempted murders, the murder of seven Israeli citizens, and the involvement in numerous terrorist attacks.

This is the person the Palestinians have leading the movement for statehood at the United Nations. Having Mother Terrorist as the representative for Palestinian statehood shows an obvious hatred and bigotry against Jews, the State of Israel, and the notion of peace. The Palestinians need to quit murdering in the name of religion and start honest bilateral negotiations with Israel in the name of peace. The U.N. should not unilaterally allow Palestinian statehood. Terrorists don't deserve a seat at the table.

And that's just the way it is.

LEMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lemont Fire Department as it celebrates 125 years of service.

In 1886, the town fathers of Lemont adopted an ordinance that created a volunteer fire department that consisted of 22 volunteers split into two companies: the hose company and the hook and ladder company. Since then, the Lemont Fire Department has grown from a handful of volunteers to a force of 85 fire, EMT, administrative, and support personnel. Every day, they protect the towns of Lemont, Darien, Bolingbrook, Homer Glen, and portions of Woodridge, Illinois—an area that is roughly 40 square miles.

In the early years of the Lemont Fire Department, the volunteers had to drag their firefighting equipment to

the fires and brave nearly insurmountable odds to save their neighbors. The bravery that inspired those men to save their neighbors is a trait that has come to define the Lemont Fire Department and the men and women who serve in it.

Mr. Speaker, the Lemont Fire Department has worked very hard to become a pillar of service in my congressional district. I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating them for 125 years of distinguished service.

JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness about the importance of juvenile diabetes research.

Approximately 3 million Americans suffer from type 1 diabetes, also known as juvenile diabetes. More than 30,000 new people are diagnosed annually, including 15,000 children. These individuals must take insulin daily to stay alive and must undergo multiple injections or have insulin delivered through a pump.

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation is a leader in type 1 diabetes research worldwide. The goals of juvenile diabetes research are straightforward: to cure type 1 diabetes, to develop better ways to treat type 1 diabetes, and to prevent type 1 diabetes from occurring in those most susceptible. This research means taking scientific developments and translating them into cures, treatments, drugs, and therapies.

Mr. Speaker, by keeping our taxpayer investment in juvenile diabetes research, one day soon we will find a cure.

RECOGNIZING BOB SCHOENFELDT FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED CAREER

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great friend and colleague, Bob Schoenfeldt, for his long and distinguished career in the field of agriculture.

After more than 34 years of service, Bob will be retiring this year from USDA, where he served as the area director for rural development in northwestern Pennsylvania, which is home to a diverse array of the Commonwealth's agriculture industry.

Bob has been at the forefront of ensuring agriculture continues to play a key role throughout Pennsylvania, especially through rural economic development. He has been a committed advocate for Pennsylvania's agriculture and family farmers across our State.

Like new shoes or hunting boots, I'm sure Bob's retirement will at first be

stiff and uncomfortable for a little while; but after such a long, distinguished and committed career, it's about time he put those feet up and relaxed for once.

Thank you, Bob, for your commitment to our State, the Nation, and the agriculture community. Congratulations on such an esteemed career. We wish you happiness and the best of luck in future endeavors.

NEW UNION AND NONUNION JOBS TO BE CREATED

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, today is a great day for many reasons.

First and foremost, the American worker is going to have an opportunity, I believe, to gain access to new markets in Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. Union and nonunion jobs are going to be created.

Another reason it's a great day is that, in just a few minutes, led by the distinguished chair of the Trade Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee, my friend from Houston (Mr. BRADY), who has been such a great champion of trade, is going to talk about the tremendous benefits that we're going to see. I see that he's going to be joined at least by Mr. CANSECO, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. SMITH, Mr. DAVIS, Dr. BOUSTANY, Mr. HERGER, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. GRIFFIN, Mr. DOLD, maybe Ms. JENKINS, and maybe even Angela Ellard for all I know, but lots of other people. Oh, my gosh. Who else have we got? TOM REED, of course, is in the back of the Chamber, and he's going to be a part of this.

Mr. Speaker, we are coming together in a bipartisan way. The President has just hours ago set up these agreements so that, again, union and nonunion workers are going to have a chance to have more jobs created as we open up these markets.

I wish all of my colleagues were going to participate in this. Godspeed, and thank you, thank you, thank you for coming together for the American people.

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INSULTING AND DEMEANING COMMENT BY MR. HERMAN CAIN

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, all of us value constructive conversation and dialogue. In fact, I believe the Republican debates that have been occurring are valuable and insightful for the American people. I have no quarrel with the First Amendment and one's right to speak as one desires.

But I take issue with Mr. Herman Cain's very insulting and demeaning

comment on a whole body politic of people, African Americans, when asked the questions why they have made choices, political choices as they have made, and he chose to suggest that African Americans are brainwashed.

I take issue, Mr. Cain, with your very unfortunate choice of words, because if you look chronologically and historically at African Americans, they voted Republican; they voted Democrat. They were in love with the idea of President Lincoln, who, of course, is known to have freed the slaves, and voted for Republicans for a number of years.

Democrats and African Americans both vote their interests, their interest in saving Medicare and Medicaid and Social Security, their interest and investment in this Nation and relief from the burdensome taxes by the Bush administration.

So, Mr. Cain, get your facts right. We're not brainwashed, and I am absolutely insulted by your ludicrous insinuation of African American intellect in choosing their political party.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROOKS). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as you know, our economy is in a tough situation here. Two-and-a-half years after recovery has supposedly started, we have almost 20 million Americans unable find a full-time job; yet we have companies, ranchers, businesses, technologies, small business anxious to sell their products around the world. But this administration, unfortunately, has not moved the free trade agreements that would allow us not simply to buy American, but to sell American in every corner of this globe.

I am pleased to announce that today, nearly 5 years after America signed a sales agreement, a trade agreement with Colombia, that the White House has submitted agreements, these agreements with Korea, Colombia, and Panama, to the United States Congress and the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives. We are going to move quickly and deliberately and strongly to pass these trade agreements so we can level the playing field and allow our farmers and companies and manufacturers and workers to compete and win around the world on that level playing field.

Tonight, we have a number of distinguished lawmakers who have focused on finding new customers for our companies and our farmers here at home.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS), a member of the Ways and Means Committee and Trade Subcommittee.

Ms. JENKINS. I would like to thank the honorable chairman from Texas for his leadership on the issue of trade and for yielding.

In today's global economy, it's essential that we make every reasonable effort to open foreign markets to American products. Yet today, as our country is struggling with a lackluster GDP and stagnant job creation, grocery stores in South Korea are signing long-term agreements with beef producers from Europe, not America.

Why European, not American? Well, the reason is simple. While this administration has dragged its feet in the approval process of our own agreement, the European Union was able to enact their agreement with South Korea before the United States could take up our own. Therefore, the South Koreans are able to purchase European goods—most notably, agriculture products—at a much lower rate and prices because, unlike American goods and commodities, they do not have costly tariffs attached to them. The same is true with American goods and agriculture products in Colombia and Panama.

In the first 2 weeks after the EU-South Korea agreement was passed, European exports to South Korea rose by 16 percent. We are losing market share and American businesses are losing their competitive edge all as a result of Washington's inability to pass these essential agreements that supposedly have bipartisan support.

In fact, since Canada signed their free trade agreement with Colombia, the U.S. has lost nearly 30 percent of our market share in wheat exports to Colombia. Losing 30 percent of our market share in a key commodity like wheat has a tremendous impact on a small State like Kansas.

When it comes down to it, this isn't about ideologies. This is about American jobs. President Obama has said it himself, these agreements can create 250,000 American jobs, and yet he has sat on them for nearly 3 years. These agreements have the ability to immediately create thousands of jobs, open new markets for farmers, ranchers, and manufacturers, and play a pivotal role in growing our economy out of this stagnancy.

I would like to thank the President for ending his stall tactics and finally sending these agreements to us today, and I implore my colleagues in Congress to work with us to swiftly pass these vital trade agreements. Let's have beef producers from Kansas or even Texas, Mr. Chairman, signing long-term deals with South Korea, Colombia, and Panama, not Europe or Canada.

Let's finally back up this rhetoric with action. Let's get Americans back to work.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I thank the gentlelady from Kansas for making the point that agriculture has paid a steep price as a result of the delays of these agreements, yet with the potential of signing these agreements has the abil-

ity to sell, win, and compete in these three important, growing, dynamic markets.

At this point, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS), one of the key members of the Trade Subcommittee, with a manufacturing background, who understands the need for America to lead in the global marketplace.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Thank you, Chairman BRADY. I appreciate you organizing a Special Order tonight dealing with these critical free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea.

I am encouraged that the President sent the agreement to the Hill earlier here today, and we are here to lend support to the President for these agreements and to encourage him to implement them as soon as they pass the House and Senate.

Passage of these trade agreements is long overdue and critical not just for our national economy, but also for our national security.

Through the Colombian agreement, we signal our dedication with a strategic and faithful ally. During my service in the U.S. Army, I ran U.S. Army aviation operations for the multinational force and observers in the Sinai, providing direct support and serving jointly with the Colombian military in the Middle East. In fact, they continue to serve in that same role. They are also serving in Haiti, Sierra Leone, and training militaries and police in counternarcotics and counterinsurgency measures across the globe.

U.S. leadership in our hemisphere is under threat from competitors, and the administration's inattention to Latin America is a real challenge that we are facing now. But the Colombia agreement signals our reengagement, which is critical to both our economic and our security future. U.S. exporters' share of Colombian imports fell 17 percent between 2001 and 2009, while Chinese exporter shares nearly tripled.

The trade agreement with Colombia will advance our national security interests by providing Colombians with alternatives to the drug trade. Colombia is a robust democracy with strong ties to the United States in a region that includes several increasingly anti-American governments, especially Venezuela. We must strengthen these ties and pacify any concerns about America's reliability as a partner by ratifying this trade agreement.

Similarly, implementing the Panama trade agreement will further mark our reengagement with the region, while countering anti-Americanism and China's increasing economic prominence.

The U.S. is the largest user of the Panama Canal and works closely with the Panamanian Government to ensure the safety of the canal itself. Panama is currently expanding the canal to double its capacity by allowing more and larger ships to transit. This expansion will increase the imports and exports to and from the United States